

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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HUNTERS ADVISED TO CHECK NEW LAW ON WHAT THEY CAN BRING BACK

U.S. citizens planning hunting trips abroad this fall and winter were urged today to check the restrictions in the 1969 Endangered Species Conservation Act and the regulations of the Department of the Interior that took effect on June 3, 1970.

These measures bar entry into the United States of certain animals--alive or as trophies or skins--and apply to sportsmen as well as commercial dealers in wildlife.

The animals barred are those on the list of foreign endangered wildlife species issued by Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel in compliance with the 1969 Act.

Banned are several hundred kinds of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish, and a mollusc. The mammals include some that American hunters seek as trophies, such as leopards and tigers.

The restrictions are the result of recommendations made to the Department of the Interior and to Congress by international conservation organizations and foreign wildlife agencies.

Penalties for violators can be severe--up to \$10,000 fine or a year in prison or both. Administering the regulations are game management agents of Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

All trophies taken by U.S. hunters and fishermen in other countries (except Canada and Mexico) may enter the United States only through New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, or New Orleans. Fish and game taken in Canada and Mexico may enter at any border crossing point or port, as may trophies being shipped with household goods when the owner is moving from one area to another. Packages containing trophies must be marked with the name and address of the shipper and consignee, the number and kind of the contents, and the country where the animals were taken.

Wildlife on the foreign endangered list imported after June 2, 1970, may be seized if found in the possession of anyone in the United States without proof of legal importation.

The ban on entry also applies to animals taken illegally in the country of origin--an attempt to curb trade in poached animals to prevent their becoming endangered.

Copies of the endangered species list may be obtained by writing to the Publications Unit, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.